

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a despicable abuse of the public airwaves and a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

The program that Sinclair is forcing its stations to run is an extended attack-ad and focuses on the alleged swift boat veterans whose testimony against John Kerry's Viet Nam service has already been discredited. If Sinclair were truly serving the public interest, as the FCC is supposed to ensure that it is, it would at least balance this programming by showing "Going Upriver" or "Weapons of Mass Deception" or "Bush's Brain" or "Fahrenheit 911" at an equally impactful time slot.

In addition the FCC should be objecting to the fact that the showing of this documentary constitutes an illegal campaign contribution by Sinclair to the Bush campaign.

As a taxpayer, I am incensed that the FCC is not coming forward to stop this abuse of the airwaves that belong to all citizens of our country, not just the wealthy neoconservatives and multi-national corporations who strive to control and limit our access to reliable information and news coverage.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.